

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Members of University College Inspired to Become “Masked Angels”

Calgary, AB (September 24, 2007) – Students, faculty and staff at St. Mary’s University College will become “masked angels” this week to support a student who is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer and must wear a mask to class to protect her from common viruses.

Sarah, 19, (who asked that her last name be withheld), is in her second year at St. Mary’s and must wear a medical mask in public because her immune system has been weakened from cancer treatments. On Tuesday, September 25 and Wednesday, September 26, the St. Mary’s University College community is encouraged to purchase their own mask to show support and raise funds. The masks will be available in the main classroom building from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm on both days.

“Sarah’s dedication to continuing her education is inspirational despite the physical and emotional toll her illness is taking,” said Kevin Legare, 22, a third-year student, who organized the fundraiser.

Legare empathized with Sarah who sometimes feels self-consciousness when wearing a mask to class.

“Imagine you are the only one in a mask and you feel watching eyes on you, wondering why you are wearing a mask? Would you be able to handle that? Would you come to school without your mask because you feel embarrassed, even though you risk getting what other people view as just a cold?” he said.

Sarah is grateful for the support her peers are giving her. “It means a lot to have the support here,” she says.

All donations made towards the purchase of masks will go to The Alberta Children’s Hospital cancer ward where Sarah volunteers.

About St. Mary’s University College

St. Mary’s University College is a Catholic post-secondary, student-focused liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution that is open to all. St. Mary’s offers Bachelor of Arts degrees and courses in 27 academic disciplines. Located at 14500 Bannister Road SE, St. Mary’s is adjacent to Fish Creek Provincial Park and directly across from the Fish Creek/Lacombe LRT Station. For more information, please visit www.stmu.ab.ca.

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For media inquiries, contact:

Margaret Dawkins
Vice-President External Relations
St. Mary’s University College
(403) 254-3704

or
Marcelina Johanson
Communications and Special Events Coordinator
St. Mary’s University College
(403) 254-3705